ICDB Number for **SATCOM** Access

ICDB stands for integrated communications database and is very important for warfighting commanders from the company to the corps levels who need to communicate via military satellite communications (MILSATCOM). Every Army unit, Navy ship, Air Force squadron or Marine task force needs an ICDB number to access MILSATCOM resources.

The ICDB is a consolidated repository of more than 3,500 validated Department of Defense MILSATCOM requirements. The database is managed by the Joint Command, Control, Communications, Computer and Intelligence (C^{4}I) Decision Support Center (JCDSC) at the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Washington, DC. The ICDB documents current as well as future requirements.

The ICDB has been around since 1975 and may be known by several other names. In 1991, it was called the user requirements database (URDB) when it merged with the Air Force's database containing Milstar satellite requirements. This database was called the integrated satellite database (ISDB), which later merged with a database containing terrestrial communications requirements to become the ICDB.

ICDB Number Validation and Approval Process. An ICDB number is *mandatory* to compete for access to MILSATCOM resources. To get the number, a unit first establishes a validated requirement. The requirement is based on warfighting operations, force structure and equipment to support the warfighting requirement. The unit submits DISA Form 772 through its chain of command to the Commander-in-Chief (CINC) who would be supported with the requirement. (To save processing time, the unit must be sure it answers the questions listed in the figure when filling out Form 772.)

The CINC's J3 reviews and validates the requirement and forwards it to the J6. The J6 then submits the requirement to the Joint SATCOM Panel Administrator (JSPA) in DISA. After the validated requirement arrives at the JSPA, the approval process takes about six weeks. Once approved, the unit receives a number assigned to that specific requirement.

The process is described in detail in the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (CJCSI) 6250.01,20, October 1998: www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/cjcsd.htm. Once the number is assigned, it must be revalidated every two years.

Members of the 51st, 52d and 54th Combat Communications Squadrons, Robins AFB, Georgia, set up a 20-inch Quick-Reaction satellite antenna in support of Operation Southern Watch. *(Photo by SSG Efrain Gonzalez, 1st Combat Camera Squadron)*

There will be times when missions call for fast responses and six weeks is too long to wait for approval. Urgent requirements can be submitted directly to the Joint Staff/J6 with information copies to the JSPA.

ICDB Updates. Once the unit receives its ICDB number, it must update the information in the database every two years in the odd numbered years. The purpose is to make sure all SATCOM requirements are current and accurately stated in the ICDB.

Also, it's critical the commander with a validated requirement conduct periodic "maintenance" checks to ensure his requirement remains in the ICDB. Information may change, such as points of contact; concepts may need to be revised; or terminal numbers may need to be modified. Getting approval for the requirement is not difficult, but ignoring update procedures could cause the unit to lose its number.

Units should remember that an ICDB number does not *guarantee* satellite access—it's only the "ticket" to compete for access based on availability of resources and priority of need.

A commander, operations sergeant or other warfighter who "owns" satellite equipment and is responsible for establishing communications via SATCOM should find out if his unit's validated requirement is in the ICDB and what the number is. To get this information, the unit goes through its chain of command to the major command J6. Mission accomplishment or training exercise success may depend on his five-digit ICDB number.

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- Is the SATCOM requirement valid?

- Does our requirement have a clear operational concept?

- Is our requirement supported by operations plans (OPLANs) or operations orders (OPORDs) that are clearly identified?

- Does our requirement identify the mission supported?

- Do we clearly spell out what will happen and the mission impact if the request is disapproved?

- Is a current point of contact listed with accurate information?

To speed the ICDB number approval process, the unit should answer these questions in its initial submission of DISA Form 772.